

Keynote Address: Douglas A. Perednia, M.D.

### Telehealth's Slow Migration into Mainstream Health Care

The National Library of Medicine has been at the forefront of telemedicine research for the better part of a decade. In this time, we've learned a great deal about the promise and limitations of telecommunications in health care. This technology has something to offer everyone: improvements in medical speed, access, economics, and even family values. So why isn't telemedicine even remotely common as a means of routine health care delivery? How could a medical tool that many people agree is useful, and even necessary, be harder to find than nearly any type of cosmetic surgery? This talk will examine telehealth's role in the 21st Century medical toolbox and marketplace in the light of research done thus far. We will critically examine the usual explanations regarding the distribution and role of telehealth services, and ask whether they still hold water after seven years of deployment and investigation.

#### **Douglas A. Perednia, M.D.**

*Douglas Perednia is a medical internist and dermatologist with a special interest in digital imaging of skin, teledermatology, and the theory and practice of clinical telehealth. His work began in the 1980's with research on the early detection of melanoma through computerized analysis of skin images. Dr. Perednia is the founder of the Telemedicine Research Center which created and operates, with NLM support, the award-winning Telemedicine Information Exchange, <<http://tie.telemed.org/>>. In 1996, Dr. Perednia helped launch the Association of Telemedicine Service Providers, an industry trade organization devoted to the appropriate application of telemedicine technologies throughout the medical marketplace. Dr. Perednia is now working in the private sector on clinical applications of e-health.*